

The Weather

Cloudy. Light rain or snow today; tomorrow, fair; not much change in temperature.

(For full weather reports see Page 8.)

72D YEAR

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Entered January 27, 1905, at the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as Second-Class Matter.

FIND 5 MURDERED IN BURNED RUINS OF BRISTOL HOME

Ben Burchfield, Husband of One of Victims, Is Accused.

SEIZED BY POLICE IN JOHNSON CITY

Firemen Discover Bodies After Putting Out Early Morning Fire.

POLICE PROTECT PRISONER

\$600 Belonging to Slave Grocer Is Missing After Crime.

Special to The Times-Dispatch
BRISTOL, VA., Nov. 26.—Ben Burchfield, aged 41 years, was arrested in Johnson City, Tenn., about noon today charged with the murder of five persons, whose mutilated bodies were discovered about 5 o'clock this morning by firemen in a small frame building on West State Street in the Tennessee side.

The dead are Mrs. Ben Burchfield and her 13-year-old son, Charles Jr., and Mrs. J. W. Smith and their 2-year-old daughter, Anna. All had been struck in the head with a blunt instrument according to the verdict of coroners' jury that convened at the home soon after the bodies were found.

Mrs. Smith's

Body Spotted With Blood.
Burchfield denied all charges, the number and said that he was on his way to Johnson City to see his sister before starting to West Virginia. His shirt and trousers were stained with blood and he claimed that he had come from home to Johnson City in an automobile early this morning.

The Smiths and Mrs. Burchfield and her son, by a previous marriage, lived in the rear of a grocery store conducted by Mr. Smith. Two weeks ago Burchfield complained to the local police that his wife planned to get a divorce and urged the authorities to put her under arrest. Within a week he had shot Burchfield yesterday, threatening to kill him and Smith and his wife. Their bodies were found by the police today. Burchfield is being held in the Sullivan County jail at Elizabethton. He will be brought here today for a hearing.

The companies were called and it was learned that they had been given no information about the morning when the bodies were discovered. The police building was closed when they were sent to the morgue. There were several hours between the time they were sent to the morgue and the time they were sent to the police station. The police building was closed again when the bodies were taken to the morgue. There was no news of Burchfield and a new trial was imminent. There was no news of Burchfield and a new trial was imminent. The city officers were present on every road and a score of more deputies from Virginia and Tennessee were sent on the lookout.

5000 Is Missing.
Burchfield was arrested by chief widow Senator and other Johnson City officers a few minutes after he was taken outside the city. He was about 40 years old and believed to have come from the Johnson City area. He was brought back to view the bodies in a local undertaking establishment and was then taken to Elizabethton.

The police are now looking for him and said he has been delivered to another State prison for a term near his state. Burchfield is said to be the person who arrested Smith had been in the grocery business here for about a year. Prior to entering business he was a painter and carpenter.

Burchfield came here from Big Stone Creek, N. C., to take the place of his wife who had been here two months.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5.)

Gardens and Cars Destroyed.
A garage, garage in the rear of the residence of Mr. S. W. Budd, at Westhampton, near the Country Club, was entirely consumed by fire last night and two automobiles were also destroyed. Twenty pedigree dogs, of the German and Airedale stock, were saved. The dogs were discovered by Dr. Budd about 11:30 last night and neighbors were called to his assistance. The garage was a total loss. The origin of the fire is unknown.

PROFESSOR TIERNAN RETURNS TO HIS FIRST WIFE, "GUSSIE"

Couple Reconciled After Revocation of Divorce and Husband Had Married Mrs. Blanche Brimmer, Pretty Divorcee.

BY Universal Service

SOUTH BEND, IND., Nov. 26.—Professor John P. Tiernan, his first wife were reconciled today. The professor, humbly seeking forgiveness, returned to his South Bend home, leaving his bride of a day to return to her home in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Tiernan, now the Tiernan divorce, which was annulled after the former law protest, Notre Dame had married Mrs. Blanche Brimner, pretty divorcee, will be withdrawn, it was announced today.

"I made a dreadful mistake," Tiernan said, when his first wife quieted down after ten minutes scene at the South Bend railroad station. They had played the fool this time, but the very same mistake that my wife and I made.

Tiernan and Mrs. Brimner had gone to Chicago for their honeymoon, which was cut short by the revocation of his divorce by Judge Chester Montgomery. Adding to the com-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 8.)

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1922. —TEN PAGES.

Complete Markets

Full Associated Press Report

PRICE, THREE CENTS

HARDING IS STIRRED TO ACTION BECAUSE OF RECENT ELECTION

President Announces He Will Assume Charge of Republican Party.

CONFIDENCE IS SHAKEN

Executive Says "G. O. P." Congress Does Not Have Nation's Faith.

By J. Frederick Essary, Washington Correspondent of The Times-Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—President Harding wants it understood that he has now assumed active and energetic leadership of his party, and with full responsibility for the political and much affirmative action as to how far it may go.

Leighson was sent to Bristol by his paper to cover the murder of five persons here today. They left Knoxville about an hour before arriving here.

Both wings were torn from the wings when it fell a distance estimated to be about 200 feet. Doctors were rushed to the field and the injured men were given first aid.

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